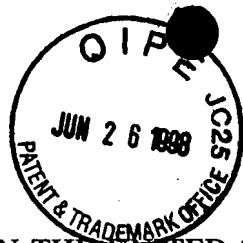


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PATENT  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re U.S. Patent Application

) Art Unit: 1755

Applicant: KAO *et al.*

)  
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June 26, 1998

Serial No.: 08/773,677

)  
  
Ronald Hanks  
Exp Mail No. EM443905490US

Filed: December 24, 1996

For: ENVIRONMENTALLY STABLE  
PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM  
THE REMEDIATION OF  
CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS  
AND SOILS

Examiner: Paul Marcantoni

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box NON-FEE AMENDMENT  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Amendment is in further response to the Office Action of December 12, 1998 is being filed as a Preliminary Amendment to a Continuing Prosecution Application made concurrently with this Amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 3, and 9 as follows:

CJ 1. (once amended) An environmentally stable substantially non-leaching cement  
*Surf* product of a process for thermo-chemical remediation and decontamination of sediments and soils contaminated with organic materials as well as inorganic contaminants and heavy metals, the process comprising the steps of:

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